

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 7724

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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PASS: NSF FOR DR STEVER, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR CONGRESSMEN DOWNING AND MOSHER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
POLICY MEETS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, PARIS JUNE 24-25,
1975: COMMUNIQUE

BELOW IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE AS REVISED BY MINISTERS
DURING THEIR FINAL SESSION ON JUNE 25. PARTICULAR
ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO PARA 15, WHICH OUTLINES ACTION BY
THE OECD ON THE US PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING R AND D
TO DEAL WITH THE CRITICAL PROBLEM OF FOOD RESOURCES.
THE US DELEGATION WAS LED BY DR H GUYFORD STEVER,
(SCIENCE ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT), ADVISED BY
CONGRESSMEN THOMAS DOWNING AND CHARLES MOSHER, HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. BEGIN TEXT:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX
PROBLEMS:

1. THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
POLICY MET AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON 24TH AND 25TH JUNE
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CANADIAN MINISTER FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE HONORABLE C. M. DRURY.

2. THE MINISTERS NOTED THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS
OF MODERN SOCIETY, AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
ECONOMICS OF THEIR COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS TO THE WORLD
ECONOMY, HAS BEEN A KEY ELEMENT AND WILL BECOME OF
EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE. THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNO-
LOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE OECD COUNTRIES, WHICH ACCOUNT
FOR OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S RESEARCH CAPACITY,
ARE A DETERMINING FACTOR IN THEIR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE
THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR
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PEOPLES AND TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING DEVELOPING MEMBER
COUNTRIES. THE VIGOROUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS PURSUED BY THE OECD COUNTRIES SERVE TO IMPROVE
THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE STAN-
DARDS OF LIVING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUCH
FIELDS AS ENERGY, NUTRITION, ENVIRONMENT AND WELFARE,
AND TO PROVIDE MEANS FOR DEALING WITH THEM.

3. MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THAT IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN THESE AIMS, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE MUST BE MORE EFFECTIVELY APPLIED TO THE DEFINITION, IMPLEMENTATION AND CONTENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AT ALL LEVELS. THIS IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS FACING TODAY'S SOCIETY.

4. THE OVERALL THEME OF THE MEETING WAS THUS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONTEXT, MINISTERS ASSESSED THE NEW CHALLENGES RESULTING FROM THE MAJOR ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST MEETING IN 1971. THEY REVIEWED CURRENT PROBLEMS FACING THE RESEARCH SYSTEM OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, IN PARTICULAR, THEIR SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS, THE MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH POLICY MAKERS AND SCIENTISTS, AND THE INCREASED PERCEPTION ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVANCE. THEY ALSO CONSIDERED THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COULD MAKE TO A BETTER SOCIAL EQUILIBRIUM

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IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE OECD COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL: COMMODITIES AND RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT IN ALL THESE AREAS THE OECD'S COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE CURRENT WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE APPLICATION TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOLUTION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

5. THE DISCUSSIONS CENTRED ON THE FOLLOWING SIX TOPICS, EACH OF WHICH HAS IMPORTANT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:

I. THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN POLICY
MAKING
6. GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS FACING CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY AND THE NEED FOR MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PROSPECTIVE PLANNING TO ENSURE THE COMPATIBILITY

OF OPTIONS AND TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE PROBLEMS, MINISTERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING SCIENTIFIC INSIGHT TO BEAR ON GENERAL AND SECTORAL POLICIES OF GOVERNMENTS THEY RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR THE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

7. TO THIS END, THEY SAW THE NEED TO:

- ASSESS THE EXPERIENCE OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE WAYS IN WHICH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE USED IN SHAPING GOVERNMENT POLICIES
- IDENTIFY THE ELEMENTS OF BROAD PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS REQUIRED FOR MEDIUM AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING, WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS

- PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.

II. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM

8. THE MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THAT THE RESEARCH SYSTEM CANNOT BE GEARED SOLELY TO THE SHORT-TERM PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE OVERALL CAPACITY OF THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE RESEARCH ON BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM PROBLEMS. THE LEVELLING OFF OF RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, OBSERVED IN SEVERAL MEMBER COUNTRIES, MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO ENSURE THIS FLEXIBILITY WHICH CALLS FOR EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY AS FAR AS RESEARCH STRUCTURES AND MOBILITY OF SCIENTISTS ARE CONCERNED.

9. THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE, PARTICULARLY AT NATIONAL LEVEL, TO PROVIDE A BETTER BASIS FOR DECISION-MAKING BY STRENGTHENING CAPABILITIES FOR THE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DATA. THEY FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT OECD SHOULD EXAMINE METHODS TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM, AND THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE FROM CHANGES IN LEVELS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING.

III. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

10. THE MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE INCREASING EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH DIRECTED TOWARDS SOCIAL OBJECTIVES LEADS TO A BETTER APPLICATION OF

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TOWARDS SOCIAL NEEDS IN AREAS SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MASS TRANSPORTATION, URBAN PLANNING AND THE HUMANIZATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT POLICIES FOR THE STIMULATION OF TECHNOLOGY MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBLE UNDESIRABLE SOCIAL EFFECTS.

11. THE MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF
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PROMOTING A CLOSER ASSOCIATION OF THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, PARTICULARLY IN ADDRESSING PROBLEMS REQUIRING A BROAD INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND PERSPECTIVE. THEY POINTED TO THE NEED FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE CONDUCT OF INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AIMED AT SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, SINCE THE SOCIAL SCIENCES HAVE AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY, MINISTERS EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT OECD WOULD INTENSIFY ITS WORK

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ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF THESE SCIENCES
IN RELATION TO POLICY-MAKING.

IV. THE NEED FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
12. MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A
BROAD AND OPEN DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES.
PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES HAS BECOME
AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN THEIR ACCEPTANCE AND THEREFORE
THEIR UTILIZATION. MINISTERS EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT
THE OECD SHOULD REVIEW THE EXPERIENCES OF MEMBER
COUNTRIES REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY. IT WAS HOPED THAT THIS INITIATIVE
WOULD MATERIALLY ASSIST MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO DEVISE

EFFECTIVE MEANS OF INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, SOLICITING THEIR REACTIONS, AND ENGAGING THEM IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

V. A NEW VISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

13. MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THE URGENT NEED FOR A BETTER HUSBANDING OF THE WORLD'S NATURAL RESOURCES, WHICH HAS BECOME A CRITICAL ISSUE. THEY RECOGNIZED THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THE PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DETAILED EXAMINATION. SUCH AN EXAMINATION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE INTERACTIONS INVOLVED AND SHOULD LEAD TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHOICES AVAILABLE AND OF THEIR IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN DEMAND FOR RAW MATERIALS BASED ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF IMPROVED UTILIZATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

14. MINISTERS EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT OECD, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE NATURE OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE REQUIRES UNCLASSIFIED

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THE INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AT BOTH REGIONAL AND WORLD LEVEL, WOULD ENCOURAGE STUDIES IN THIS DIRECTION. FURTHERMORE, THEY UNDERLINED THE STRONG INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD BEARING IN MIND THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

15. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CRITICAL PROBLEM OF FOOD RESOURCES, THEY NOTED WITH INTEREST THE PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES ON THE NEED TO PROMOTE FOOD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. THEY INVITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PREPARE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OECD COMMITTEES CONCERNED, AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF ON-GOING WORK IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS NOTABLY F.A.O. AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE FORTHCOMING OECD MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

VI. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

16. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT OECD COUNTRIES CARRIED OUT THE MAJOR PROPORTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS FACING SOCIETY, MINISTERS STRESSED THE NEED TO ADAPT CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE BETTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NOTABLY ON THE BASIS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS. THEY CONSIDERED THAT GREATER EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES IN INTER-DISCIPLINARY FIELDS.

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17. CONSCIOUS OF THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THEIR COUNTRIES TOWARD THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, MINISTERS AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A BROADER PERSPECTIVE IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT A NEW PATTERN OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WAS DEVELOPING, BASED ON INTERDEPENDENCY, IN WHICH EXCHANGES MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO ALL COUNTRIES COULD BE ACHIEVED. MINISTERS EXPECTED THAT THE FORTHCOMING 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD OFFER A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT.

18. MINISTERS AGREED ON THE NECESSITY TO ACTIVELY REINFORCE COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATING THE TRANSFER OF, AND ACCESS TO, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO STRENGTHEN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES OF THESE COUNTRIES. THEY THEREFORE INVITED OECD TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE TRAINING OF QUALIFIED SCIENTIFIC MANPOWER. END TEXT.

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